

St. Columba's Roman Catholic Church, Convent  
Cambria City Neighborhood  
915 Chestnut Street  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5741-D

HABS  
PA,  
11-JOTO,  
44-D-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

St. Columba's Roman Catholic Church, Convent

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Location: 915 Chestnut Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Three-and-a-half-story, three-bay brick building. Rectangular plan, 40' x 52'. Front-gable roof, with shaped parapet. Rather fussy late Victorian design with paired flat-headed windows throughout the first two stories. The sills and lintels of the windows are of stone, and the lintels are articulated by wide stone panels. The third story has a group of four flat-arched windows, with paired windows in the attic story. The side elevations have dormer windows. Shed-roofed front porch.

History: This structure was built in 1900 to accommodate the nuns who taught in the adjoining Catholic parochial school of St. Columba's. It was still in use as a convent in 1949. Today it is used as St. Columba's Activity Center.

Sources:

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Co., 1895, 1911).

Tax assessment card, assessment no. 86-007-206, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Bernadette Goslin in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Goslin's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.